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Gallagher defends CIA

over atrocity charge

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WASHINGTON — Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher (D-13th Dist.), in defense of the Central Intelligence Agency, yesterday tangled verbally with Sen. Stephen Young (D-Ohio).

Young said at a news conference that he had been told by a CIA member in Vietnam that the intelligence agency had committed atrocities there to discredit the Communist Viet Cong.

Gallagher, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, which is frequently briefed by CIA spokesmen on Vietnam, indignantly told newsmen later that "it may well be that Young spoke to a Viet Cong disguised as a CIA man."

Young, who recently returned from Vietnam, said he was told while there that the CIA disguised persons as Viet Cong and that they committed atrocities, including killing men and raping women. He did not identify his informant by name.

A CIA spokesman, asked for comment, said, "As far as our agents having done

such things, the statement is absolutely false."

The New Jersey congressman, who was in Vietnam as a committee member four months ago, said he also was briefed at that time and no one told him of such activity.

"Young's statement is absolutely false and it reflects a carelessness with facts," Gallagher said.

Young was unavailable late yesterday for comment.

An assistant asked:

"Who is Gallagher? How does he get into this? I doubt that the senator even knows him."

Gallagher had also said:

"It is obvious that the senator misunderstood the essence of the briefing or failed to distinguish between the terms of identification of the opposing forces in Vietnam . . . no one could possibly conceive such an exercise as Sen. Young describes."

"I think Sen. Young should come forward with a clear statement and if he wants to appear before our House com-

mittee we'll be glad to hear what he has to say.

"As for the CIA, it is an efficient, able organization and adheres to its basic concept to this nation. We'll ask a spokesman to appear before our committee on this unfounded accusation."

"Sen. Young should be making statements which give aid and comfort to our enemies."